

History

Cuddesdon College was founded in 1854 by the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, for the full-time, residential training of ordained ministers. Another theological college, Ripon Hall, was incorporated in 1975 to form Ripon College Cuddesdon.

Non-residential and dual-track ordination training has been offered since 2006 with the incorporation of the Oxford Ministry Course (now the Part Time Pathway PTP) located at Cuddesdon, the West of England Ministerial Training Course (now Cuddesdon Gloucester Hereford CGH) located in Gloucester and Ludlow in 2011, and the inception of the Portsmouth Pathway (PPC) located in central Portsmouth in 2015. Alongside formational training, some students take University of Oxford degrees but the majority undertake Durham University Common Awards (DUCA).

Through these pathways and range of courses, the College offers programmes to suit students at different stages of life, various personal circumstances and academic abilities for ministry within the church: stipendiary, self supporting, local ordained and lay ministry. The College is committed to the diversity of the church with students coming from a broad range of Anglican traditions.

There are around 100-120 students in training at any one time with a roughly even split between men and women, with the average age of students being between 30 and 35 years. Just under half live in the Cuddesdon community, either as single students or with their families, for one, two or three years, with the remainder training on non-residential pathways.

The College also trains Ordained Pioneer Ministers through a collaboration with Church Mission Society, trains Readers through its Gloucester, Hereford and Portsmouth pathways, and offers independent courses to a growing number of lay and ordained students. In addition, the College offers a programme of lectures, seminars, short courses, research projects, guided retreats and an annual Summer School in Biblical and Theological Studies.

In 2012, the remaining Sisters from two Anglican religious orders - St John Baptist and The Good Shepherd - joined the College community becoming The Cuddesdon Sisters. They provided a praying presence throughout the year and offered spiritual direction, Quiet Days and guided retreats. Sadly, the last two Sisters left the College community in December 2020 to re-join their colleagues in a care home in Chiswick.

Values

We celebrate:

- Community – trust, joy, participation, generosity
- Hospitality – receiving the stranger, the world and keeping boundaries open
- Wisdom – learning, personal growth, holiness, truth, theological reflection and study
- Integrity – of faith, life and ministry
- Diversity – embracing all the riches of the Christian tradition, embracing difference and practicing reconciliation